

January 2019

Paul-Emile Perron's drive and commitment to enhancing and conserving our fishing and hunting resources and heritage.

Excerpt from the Gord Blake Memorial Conservation Award Nomination as submitted by The Nosbonsing Anglers and Hunters.

Early Years

In 1983 Paul-Emile Perron rallied a group of likeminded individuals to discuss the possibility of forming conservation-based hunting and fishing club for the Astorville area. As a result of their meeting on March 29th, 1983 the Nosbonsing Anglers and Hunters Club was established with Paul-Emile Perron pioneering the club as president. 35 years later, Paul-Emile Perron has dedicated 31years serving the club in the capacity of President and continues to lead our organization in new and vital missions today.

From the onset Paul was actively involved in not only the development and growth of the club but contributed selflessly in many early years' projects such as:

- The building and maintenance of deer feeding stations;
- Cultivated Annual summer food plots with grant from CWIP;
- Collaborated with MNR to catch, transport and release Bass into Mink and Campbell Lakes (the latter named in honour of Ron Campbell MNR);
- In 1996 Paul applied and was successful in securing grant monies for the creation and enhancement of spawning beds on Lake Nosbonsing, and over a period of two winters more than 30 tons of rubble were used in the construction of these beds;
- Conducted numerous walleye surveys on surrounding lakes including Lake Nosbonsing in 1997;
- In 2002 and 2003 he partook in the Eastern Ontario Moose Management Round Table, in Pembroke Ontario. Paul participated in the delivery of the final report in which one of which recommended options lead to the initiation of an archery season in WMU 48;
- Sponsored and coordinated turkey hunting seminars for members and locals;
- Working in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada built and installed wood duck nesting boxes;

Current and Ongoing Undertakings

In addition to these early years' projects Paul's leadership and tireless efforts in ensuring a solid club foundation included fundraising, communication, marketing and administrative duties. Truly someone that has and continues to go over and above throughout his tenure. His perseverance in continuing efforts includes current and ongoing projects such as:

- The construction and mounting of bat houses;
- The construction and mounting of further wood duck nesting boxes;

- The continued participation in walleye surveys;
- Maintaining deer feed programs when deemed necessary;
- Active member and liaison with the Ontario Trappers Association;
- Active member and liaison with QDMA (Quality Deer Management Association);
- Role model and Mentor in Kid's, Cops & CDN. Tire Fishing Days Annual Event;
- Development and sponsor for Anti-Poaching Billboard Campaign;
- Club recipient of the Dorothy Walford Memorial Award (Local Environmental Award) for significant contributions to the conservation, preservation and enhancement of our natural environment

Major Project

Depot Creek is a tributary of Lake Nosbonsing flowing from an unnamed lake near the border of Algonquin Park in Boulder Township into the lake. It sustains Speckled Trout and other varieties of fish but was dramatically altered due to the damage caused by Hurricane Hazel in 1955. For countless years it has been Paul Perron's dream to provide much needed restoration to this river system.

In 1988 and 1989 Paul with the help of club members and family, endeavored to initiate restoration attempts spending numerous days restoring and cleaning up the river, however their attempts were impacted by the lack of funding necessary to complete such a large-scale project at that time. This did not diminish Paul's vision or desire. In 2016 Paul's perseverance paid off, as his application for a grant through The Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council was approved for the rehabilitation of Depot Creek (*see attached article published in the "East Ferris Edition – Spring and Summer 2017 for full details*).

As the article highlights, many hours were spent by Paul and the club in 2017 working on Depot Creek, but it was far from finished and in 2018 another full summer was expended bringing the project to its intended completion.

Another 18 days were spent by Paul and the club on Depot Creek, it is estimated that a further **1000 +** man hours were supplied. (**2200 total man hours for 2017/18**).

The club estimates that Paul's contribution in man hours exclusive to this project would be as follows:

- Paul contributed 37 days at 10 hours a day of tangible labour - including travel to and from work sites (**370 hours**);
- 10 days of project management/site preparation including creation of detailed drawings and procedures for each site, Inspection/assessment outings with members from MNRF, Mattawa Conservation Authority, Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council and FRI Ecological Services for drone deployment – to detect obstacle and determine possible sites for remediation (**60 hours**);
- Time and Labour in planning/preparation all facets for each 37 scheduled work days including; labour, equipment and necessary resources, recruiting volunteers, assignment of work detail, safety planning and equipment inspections/ verification, collation of food and beverages for volunteers and the

cancelling and rescheduling due to inclement weather totals in **excess of 30 hours**;

- Miscellaneous hours in the development of checklists and acquisition of tools, equipment, gas, safety equipment/supplies, communication and marketing, updating reports and debriefing mandates **(20 hours)**;
- It is estimated that Paul Perron's personal volunteer hours on The Depot Creek Project expended in excess of **480 hours**;
- It is also noted that in addition to the aforementioned, Paul coordinated and utilized his own vehicles, trailers, ATV's and other personal equipment and materials to ensure transportation of volunteers and equipment and the success of the project;
- In accordance and compliance with regulatory guidelines from several legislative bodies and specific Grant conditions including:
 - The utilization of natural materials derived from site(s) debris clean up
 - Retaining walls built using fallen or dead trees
 - Diversion walls created with natural materials
 - All back-fill of walls contained stumps, logs, tag alders, branches, etc.
- **A total of 36 sites were rehabilitated equaling over 4.5 kilometers;**